

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Riverside City Council Meeting

Held on Thursday, September 15, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Williams called the Riverside, Ohio City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Riverside Administrative Offices located at 5200 Springfield Street, Suite 100, Riverside, Ohio, 45431.

ROLL CALL: Council attendance was as follows: Mr. Denning, present; Mrs. Franklin, absent; Ms. Fry, present; Mr. Joseph, present; Ms. Lommatzsch, present; Mr. Maxfield, present; and Mayor Williams, present.

Staff present was as follows: Josh Rauch, City Manager; Chris Lohr, Assistant City Manager; Tom Garrett, Finance Director; Dan Stitzel, Fire Chief; Kathy Bartlett, Public Service Director; Dalma Grandjean, Law Director; and Katie Lewallen, Clerk of Council.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: Ms. Lommatzsch moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph, to excuse Mrs. Franklin. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA: No changes were made to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Joseph moved, seconded by Mr. Maxfield, to approve the agenda. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATION: Chief Dan Stitzel recognized Firefighter/EMT John Mathy for over three decades of fire and EMS service to the City of Riverside. He began as a volunteer firefighter with the Mad River Township Fire Department while working a full-time job, and then came on as a part-time firefighter. Council thanked him for his years of service and wished him well on his retirement.

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Williams read a proclamation recognizing October as National Fire Prevention Month. Ms. Lommatzsch added that now is a good time for residents to check their smoke detectors.

MINUTES: Mr. Maxfield moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph, to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2022, council business meeting. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: Deputy Mayor Denning moved, seconded by Ms. Fry, to approve Mr. Chuck Evanhoe reappointment to the Tax Review Board. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

WRITTEN CITIZEN PETITIONS: Mayor Williams stated any citizen wishing to speak should fill out a petition found at the back of the room and turn it in to the clerk.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

A) Finance Department – Mr. Garrett stated the finance report was included in the council packet and is on the city website. He stated they received three distributions from

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CCA in August so that is why the amount is larger. They are scheduled to get the next distribution this coming Monday. They may not receive another before the end of the month. They received the real estate distribution tax this last Friday, and it was posted this morning. He added that auditors have requested an extension until the end of September to tie it all together, so it is still in process.

Mr. Joseph stated they are calendar year fiscal but asked when they finish their audit. Mr. Rauch replied that normally they would have been done, but they had a request for an extension to start the process and this is the second or third extension. Mr. Garrett stated it is the third or fourth extension. Normally, the audits need to be done by around June or July. Mr. Rauch added that the auditors requested the extension and not the city.

B) Administration – Mr. Lohr stated they have wrapped up the Office 365 installation. If there are any issues using the email or Office apps, he will be glad to help with that.

C) Community Development Department/City Manager Report – Mr. Rauch stated the boards around the council chambers are from last night's Land Use Plan meeting. Anyone from the public can come in to view and participate in discussion when city hall is open, and the room is not being used. Someone from staff will be glad to walk residents through it. There is also an online component that can be viewed. He thanked Ms. Bartlett and the contractors for being willing to delay the Harshman wall repairs by a week in order to accommodate the upcoming USAF Marathon. He asked for a motion from council on the proclamation process and policy the clerk had sent out to council. He would like to fold that into the council handbook unless there are objections. If they would like to discuss it further at a work session, they can do that. Ms. Fry stated she had some things she wanted to address. Mr. Rauch stated they can put it on a work session. Mr. Rauch stated that power poles have been put up along East Springfield Street, and in working with AES, the initial plan was to install power lines for a cell tower on a pad. The city asked them to pause and get a quote on the cost to bury those cables. The estimate is \$80,000. The question right now is whether or not they will be required to get additional easements and where they want to route that. This will have to come through council. He needs to know if they are interested in pursuing this as the amount could be more depending on easements. If they are interested in further refining that and get a quote and timeline, he will put that on a work session. It is an aesthetic decision. Discussion was held the city being notified on those poles being put in. A lot of effort has been put in to make that section of roadway improved in aesthetics and the utility poles will take away from that. Mr. Rauch stated a lot of the conversations took place two years ago with other staff no longer here. Ms. Lommatzsch added that there has to be something in writing that this was going to happen. Mr. Rauch stated he will gather information and then they will discuss it further. Mr. Joseph asked how many poles they are talking about. Mayor Williams stated it was a series of poles. Ms. Lommatzsch stated there has to be a record of how that happened. Mr. Rauch stated they have that. It went through an approval process, but all the people who approved it are no longer here. Discussion was held on the cost of lighting and the aesthetics.

Mr. Rauch stated that the last thing has to do with the Woodman Bridge replacement project and that council was heavily involved in that several years ago. A component of that project

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had to do with adding lighting to the bridge. ODOT contacted the city about concern of the cost of the lighting being substantially higher than what was initially estimated. They need to let the project out to bid and need to know what the city wants with regard to the lighting. Mr. Rauch recommends telling ODOT to bid the project without the lights but bid it so the lights can be put in later. The bridge will still be built with the necessary conduit and materials to put in the light poles, but they aren't going to add the light poles and lighting materials as part of the project. They may still pay more for the bridge but will pay less if the light was included. Also, as they continue to look at the Woodman corridor, they may be able to get grants and have someone else pay for the lighting. If they need to talk about it, then he can add it. Mayor Williams stated he likes the plan Mr. Rauch has outlined. Mr. Rauch stated ODOT needs an answer right away. Ms. Lommatzsch stated they agreed to go with the \$200,000 to add the lighting. She will be disappointed if they do not do a good job on this project and add the lighting. Mr. Rauch stated they aren't talking about eliminating the lights. It would be more of a delay. Mr. Joseph stated this is aesthetic when compared to needing firefighters and police. He has zero appetite for aesthetics when it comes to an understaffed fire department, a suffering police department and the roads are deteriorating. Mr. Maxfield agreed. Mr. Joseph stated this is what he is passionate about. It has been 27 years of fiscal irresponsibility, and this is what they are dealing with. Ms. Lommatzsch stated it is safety not aesthetics as a lot of people walk that bridge. Mr. Joseph stated that the ODOT would not be recommending against it if it was for safety. Ms. Lommatzsch stated she does not wish to discuss this anymore.

Ms. Lommatzsch left at 6:26 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: No one wished to speak on agenda items.

OLD BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES

- I) Ordinance No. 22-O-806 – An ordinance amending Section 1113.19 Floodplain Design Standards of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) of the City of Riverside, Ohio. (2nd reading, public hearing, and adoption)**

Mr. Rauch stated this is the second reading for the floodplain ordinance.

Mr. Maxfield moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Denning, to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 22-O-806. The clerk read the ordinance by title only.

Mayor Williams opened the public hearing at 6:26 pm. No one came forward. Mayor Williams closed the public hearing at 6:26 pm.

Roll call went as follows: Mr. Maxfield, yes; Mr. Denning, yes; Ms. Fry, yes; Mr. Joseph, yes; and Mayor Williams, yes. **Motion carried.**

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NEW BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCES

- I) **Ordinance No. 22-O-807 – An ordinance to approve employee position titles, number of positions and pay ranges and to repeal Ordinance No. 22-O-796 passed June 2, 2022. (1st reading)**

Mr. Rauch stated this is the first reading to backfill for the SRO position in the police department and reclassify the engineering inspector to a maintenance worker in the public service department.

Deputy Mayor Denning moved, seconded by Mr. Maxfield, to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 22-O-807. The clerk read the ordinance by title only.

Roll call went as follows: Mr. Denning, yes; Mr. Maxfield; Ms. Fry; Mr. Joseph, yes; and Mayor Williams, yes. **Motion carried.**

- II) **Ordinance No. 22-O-808 – An ordinance revising Chapter 135 and repealing the existing Chapters 137 and 149 of the Administrative Code of the City of Riverside, Ohio. (1st reading)**

Mr. Rauch stated this ordinance would permit staff to reject or revoke permits based on specific criteria and remove some redundancies in the existing code.

Deputy Mayor Denning moved, seconded by Mr. Maxfield, to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 22-O-808. The clerk read the ordinance by title only.

Roll call went as follows: Mr. Denning, yes; Mr. Maxfield; Ms. Fry; Mr. Joseph, yes; and Mayor Williams, yes. **Motion carried.**

B. RESOLUTIONS

- I) **Resolution No. 22-R-2790 - A resolution authorizing the city manager to enter into a professional services agreement with Raftelis for property maintenance and enforcement code review.**

Mr. Rauch stated this resolution allows them to obtain professional services to rewrite the existing property maintenance code based on comparables and other best practices.

Deputy Mayor Denning moved, seconded by Mr. Maxfield, to approve Resolution No. 22-R-2790.

All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

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II) Resolution No. 22-R-2791 – A resolution authorizing the city manager to enter into a lease, purchase, and maintenance agreement for eight Sharp digital copy machines under the State of Ohio Cooperative Bid Program.

Mr. Rauch stated that this resolution is to renew the copier contract.

Mr. Maxfield moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Denning, to approve Resolution No. 22-R-2791.

All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

III) Resolution No. 22-R-2792 – A resolution authorizing the city manager to make application to the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) for the purpose of obtaining Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds for the Woodman Phase 1 Project.

Mr. Rauch stated this allows them to apply for Transportation Alternatives Program funds through the MVRPC and help support funding for Woodman Phase 1, which is to go in 2025.

Deputy Mayor Denning moved, seconded by Mr. Maxfield, to approve Resolution No. 22-R-2792.

All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

IV) Resolution No. 22-R-2793 – A resolution of consent to enter into an agreement with ODOT for Bridge Inspection Program Services.

Mr. Rauch stated that ODOT provides bridge inspection services at no cost to municipalities and this resolution allows them to do it for them.

Mr. Maxfield moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph, to approve Resolution No. 22-R-2793.

All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Mayor Williams stated one person wished to speak on non-agenda items. He invited Mr. Nieberding to the podium and asked him to state his name and address and keep comments to three minutes. Mr. Dale Nieberding, 4730 Sheller Avenue, Riverside, OH, 45432, stated he has four areas of consideration. One is for a city ordinance regarding truck brake use off SR 35. A lot of times in order to stop using their brakes, they downshift and there is a loud rumbling sound that can be heard from a quarter of a mile away. This decreases citizen quality of life. He asked if signs could be posted for that as he has seen in other cities. The second concern is for a wall to be installed for highway sound barriers included in the upgrades for route 35. He lived next to highway in Canada and the walls are very effective. He was just a block away and could barely tell he lived next to a highway. He now lives a quarter of a mile from the highway, and he hears the traffic regularly. The third concern is for the work done on Eastman Road, and there was

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a change in the trigger mechanism in the road. Today, he was on the road and there were 12 cars backed up. It needs to trigger so that it regulates faster because cars are backing up and they are starting to dart out into traffic when it is on the red. That is a hazard. The fourth concern is a welcome sign and landscaping at Woodman Drive eastbound on SR 35 similar to Austin Landing at Linden Avenue to give a better presentation to everybody that drives along there of who we are as Riverside. Mayor Williams pointed out the renderings in the lobby for the signage that is to be used in the bridge design work. He feels the bridge will be a very prominent welcome to the city. It may not look like Austin Landing, but there is work being done and that is on the way. He stated the city manager will be responsive to the other items he has stated.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: Mayor Williams thanked several community partners as he and the city manager attended a meeting with the superintendent yesterday. He stated there is a new connection, Neighborhood Bridges. This has come to the Mad River district. There was a news article in the Dayton Daily News last week with the superintendent, and he invites a number of community partners to his meetings that he pulls together on a monthly basis. They were able to hear where that program started and how it is taking root over a short time in the community. He wants the city to share that as they can to help folks in need. This crowd sources some things for people in the community. He thanked a number of legislative delegates in the region, who over the last two weeks provided letters of support for the Riverside community for a couple of transportation grants they are going after now made possible through the infrastructure bill. Everyone that he, Josh, and Kathy talked to was more than willing to lend support for their community across the political aisle. On the national level it looks like no one gets along, but in this part of the country, even if they don't agree on everything, they do want to do what is right and what is best. He was glad to see how quickly people got back to them and support them.

Ms. Fry reminded everyone that the Historical Society is having an ice cream social this Saturday from noon to 4:00 pm. in Airway Shopping Center.

ADJOURNMENT: Deputy Mayor Denning moved, seconded by Mr. Joseph, to adjourn. All were in favor. **Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.


Peter J. Williams, Mayor
Clerk of Council